

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – July 11, 2001**

Present: Commissioners –
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service –
Tom Baker, KEWE, Park Ranger
Frank Fiala, KEWE, Superintendent
Abby Sue Fisher, KEWE, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services
Brian Hoduski, KEWE, Curator
Rodney Larsen, KEWE, Administrative Officer
Charlie Masten, KEWE, Facility Manager

Diana Charles, Upper Peninsula office of Senator Carl Levin
Amy Wisti, Houghton office of Congressman Bart Stupak

Absent: Paul Lehto, Calumet Township

Recording Secretary: Abby Sue Fisher

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Wednesday, July 11 in Calumet, Michigan at the Park headquarters. Larry Lankton called the meeting to order at 1:05pm in the absence of chair Paul Lehto.

Introductions

Larry Lankton introduced Diana Charles from Senator Carl Levin's office and Amy Wisti from Congressman Bart Stupak's office. Frank Fiala said that Terry Davies from Senator Stabenow's Marquette office had intended to be there but had to cancel at the last minute.

Agenda

Larry indicated his concern that the Park was going to be having some personnel discussions regarding the executive director for the KEWE Park Advisory Commission and wondered how much of that would be general and public, and how much would be done behind closed doors.

Frank answered that at the conclusion of this meeting there would be an executive session to further those discussions.

The agenda was otherwise approved.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held April 24, 2001 were distributed. Frank apologized for not having had the minutes previously distributed and he and Larry publicly thanked Lisa Dwyer for her former service in this regard. The minutes were approved.

Old Business and Superintendent's Report

Frank gave an update on KEWE staffing. He announced the addition of Charlie Masten, whose background is in maintenance, facilities and exhibit restoration, who will be a great asset to the staff. Frank then acknowledged the graduation of Rodney Larsen on August 2 from the NPS intake program and Rodney's permanent employee status thereafter. Frank also announced writing position descriptions for a Chief of Interpretation position, with advertising to take place within the next four weeks and hiring to take place by October. That person will lead the interpretation of the Park. Frank also said he was just recently informed that the Park has put in for a new intake and was selected as a Park and will be getting a new Museum Curator that will work with Brian Hoduski. That person is expected to be here by August.

With regard to lands:

- Frank recently heard from Omaha that International Paper has given conditional approval of the sale of the Library, but the details have yet to be worked out. Hopefully, this will be done by the end of summer because office space is at a premium.
- There is still an offer out on the Rowe Building and Frank will meet with the owner next week to talk more about that.
- A purchase price has been accepted for the approximately 100 acres north of Lake Annie Road at Quincy Hill and the sale is expected to culminate soon. Although this is only a small fraction of the area at Quincy, Frank indicated this would stabilize and preserve the cultural landscape in that unit of the Park.
- The asbestos removal was completed at the Paymaster's building, and Frank complimented the staff for their excellent job in organizing the removal of the artifacts in that building. Frank indicated that the environment was now safe and clean for the two tenants of the building.
- Frank reported that a price was settled on for that collection and the Ingots that were stored there, and paperwork is in progress to acquire those.

Frank reported that the new Ingot is out for the summer; the front page is changed and there are some editorial changes on the last page. There has been some preliminary discussions with an interpretive planner who is in the process of providing the Unigrid brochure, which Frank explained is typical of all National Parks that the public enter, and gives more information. These brochures are site-specific and explain why the Park is in the system. Frank hopes to have something done on this by late fall or early in the winter, which would replace the Ingot for that purpose. The Ingot, then, would become more of a Park newspaper that would notify people of current events. The Harpers Ferry Service Center is usually the organization charged with producing the pamphlet and will do that, but it is a slow process and will be about two years from now, but the Unigrid brochure is coming.

Frank was happy to report that the Development Advisory Board presentation that he and Fritz Rushlow attended in May was very well received. Frank thanked Tom Baker and the other staff involved for their help in putting that presentation together. Frank indicated that it would be a design-build approach, soliciting for proposals for a design-build firm. That first phase would take about thirty days, where the qualifications would be due at the end of this month. About a week will be spent reviewing those, and hopefully five firms would be selected that could provide a design-build approach. Those firms will submit proposals and Frank is confident the contract could be awarded by the end of September. That contract would be for the rehabilitation for the Headquarters Building, which would include a new slate roof, exterior tuck-pointing and brickwork, repair of windows, and upgrades to the interior utility and electrical system. Frank indicates that overall the project is moving along well.

Eight cooperative agreements have been completed and there are task agreements in process. KEWE has been involved with the Pine Mountain Music Festival's opera, "Children of the Keweenaw," which premiered July 11. Frank thanked Tom Baker, Abby Sue Fisher, and Brian Hoduski for putting the poster together which put the opera in a historical context. Frank indicated he has been involved in the opera symposium and feels the opera is a prominent high-energy event. The poster will be on display at all four of the opera sites. Posters are also available free to the public after the performance to disseminate historical information about the event.

The three-day Heritage Days event was held June 30 through July 1 and Frank reported on a fairly good turnout. Frank and others involved met July 9 to critique and evaluate that event for the future.

Frank shared some information about the Fiscal Year 2002 budget appropriation. In the House, there is \$1.34 million in the operating money (ONPS), plus the line-item construction project for the Union Building at \$2.5 million. On the Senate side, both of those projects are there however, Frank reported there was \$1 million for the smelter project which they are now working on and \$800,000 for acquisitions. Frank reported he tried to determine whether there was a base budget increase, but said that information was not forthcoming.

Questions asked of the Superintendent:

Bob Langseth asked who the eight cooperating agreements were with. Frank answered that these were 1) Coppertown; 2) Calumet Township; 3) Calumet Theatre; 4) Pine Mountain Music Festival; 5) Quincy Mine Hoist Association; 6) Michigan Tech; 7) The Miscowaubik Club; and 8) the Barbara Gundlach Shelter. Sue Cone asked about the agreement for the Village, and Frank answered that that agreement would be through the Calumet Theatre. Bob asked if each of the sites would be going through a cooperative evaluation, for example, would St. Anne's go through an evaluation? Frank indicated that at some point there would have to be a cooperative agreement with St. Anne's if there was to be a collaborative venture, as there would at all sites.

Tom Nemacheck asked about the results of the meeting of the cooperating sites. Frank reported that this was in June and went well. A lot of sites sent representatives, and a good discussion resulted as to how dialogue could be improved and working relationships be strengthened between sites and the Park. Frank is looking to the executive director to gear up that process but at this time, it was a good meeting.

Diana Charles asked about the monetary commitment the Park is making toward the Seaman Mineralogical Museum. Frank reported that there was none at the present time, and in terms of operating monies, there would be a possibility next year but other funding would be coming from elsewhere. Diana asked for an update on the building project, and Frank reported that there was \$55,000 dedicated to taking the roof off the machine shop. Larry Lankton also asked if the roof trusses were to be taken off the Blacksmith Shop because they were unsalvageable, and Frank reported that that work was done because the Museum, the Quincy Mine Hoist, and the Dept. of Agriculture Research Station at Madison entered into a cooperative agreement to do analysis on the structural integrity of those pieces for possible reuse in that facility. If the structures are not suitable for reuse, then they are going to make a composite, removing the bad and laminating the good so the structures could be reused and salvaged in other parts of the building. Larry asked if there was roof work in both places because of the machinery that was allegedly intact inside the blacksmith's shop, and Frank indicated that the machinery would stay there.

Kathryn Eckert asked the total cost of rehabilitating the building for a museum, and Frank said this varies in terms of the work done. The actual renovation and restoration costs will probably be about \$4 million, but adding the sophisticated areas of design and exhibits would quickly mushroom. Kathryn inquired about who is raising money for this, and Frank indicated the Seatech Foundation is the non-profit organization affiliated with the Seaman Museum and are doing their own fundraising campaign, with a major donor spearheading that. Frank reported that approximately \$3 million has been raised that he is aware of.

Tom Nemacheck asked about the housing location of the piece of mass copper that will soon be pulled out of Lake Superior, and Frank replied that it would be placed in the hoist house at the Quincy Mine Hoist. An exhibit will be created that would be funded by the Seaman Museum and will inform people about copper. Diana Charles reported that she had recently spoken with Stan Dyl and he reported that the Army Corps of Engineers would begin the lift July 12 in the afternoon and the copper would be lifted onto a flatbed truck. Sue Cone indicated her surprise that the specimen would not be left as is as part of an underground diving preserve, and with the

Corps being a Federal agency, did the Park have significant involvement. Frank reported that the Park provided a pass-through for funding, but that the Seaman Museum would be reimbursing the Park for that. There is no other involvement on the part of the Park, and Frank reported that to his knowledge, the Museum did have the approval of the state archeologist and was all done according to proper procedures. Larry Lankton asked if the Museum would be the legal owner of the copper, and Frank replied that the State would be the owner, with the copper being on loan to the Museum. After the new Museum is complete, the copper would move from the hoist house and become a central display of the visitor's center. Larry asked the dimensions of the copper, and Frank replied it was about 18' long and weighed 80,000 pounds. Larry reported that would be twenty times the size of the Ontonagon Boulder.

Reports from the Commissioners

Tom Nemacheck reported the State would be hosting the Central States group of the Society of American Travel Writers for their annual meeting at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, the most prolific writers in the country. A pre- or post-familiarization tour for the writers would involve the U.P.; lodging and other cooperation in the industry is still in process. A core meeting is held on the island, with tours to follow or precede. The Park will be involved as this event draws closer.

Kathryn Eckert reported on a number of grant applications following the Americana meeting last August. The Congregational Church of Lake Linden got funds to repair an organ, St. Anne's was funded for exterior work, the Mary Chase Perry Stratton House (n/k/a Pewabic House) received exterior work funding, the Keweenaw County Foundation received a grant for land use, and the Michigan Architectural Foundation awarded a modest grant and Dave Evans Memorial Award to the Pewabic House as well for its Detroit connections.

In addition, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network is organizing its annual conference in Traverse City, perhaps a more accessible location for U.P. attendees.

Kathryn asked for a status update on the historic district ordinance designation for Calumet Village, and an update on the meeting in Lansing which was scheduled earlier for the end of August. Frank reported the Lansing meeting was scheduled for August 24, and that the State Preservation Network Office would be meeting at the Park on September 29 regarding preservation-related issues, including homeowners' tax credit for the state. Sue Cone reported that the Village reviewed the ordinance and discovered the language defining the district was omitted. That language will be added and it is unclear whether there will be a need for another public hearing with the Historic District Study Committee before a public hearing with the Village in order to pass the ordinance. Sue indicated that before the Council makes any decisions, there would need to be more public input and this has not been an easy task. The ordinance would not be passed until the fall at the earliest. Kathryn was pleased to see some very good examples of proper preservation work being done in downtown Calumet, particularly the new law office on Sixth Street and some storefronts that had been refurbished from synthetic facades to the historic fabric underneath. This was done without an ordinance and with some information that perhaps had come from John Rosemurgy or other members of the Park. Sue refers rehab questions to John and Steve.

Bob Langseth reported on a number of items in connection with the last meeting's minutes. He has written to the state legislators about \$3 million for non-Federal assistance to non-Federal owners and how that might be applied for, and asked Amy and Diana to follow up and respond. Bob sent Burt Boyum a card on behalf of the Commission. On July 25, Bob will give a presentation on Calumet's progress since the 1968 mine closing. He is also working with the Park on an oral history interview project.

Sue Cone made some corrections to Page 5 of the minutes of the April 24 meeting. The DDA is not accepting proposals for downtown traffic flow and streetlights on a block-by-block basis. The DDA has some grant programs that does not have anything to do with downtown traffic flow or streetlights. The DDA is updating the downtown plan. The Planning Commission is not reviewing a Master Plan for the Village; it is reviewing the Agassiz Park Master Plan. Sue reported the Village received an Americana Foundation grant for \$50,000. They received a Michigan Arts, Cultural and Quality of Life grant of \$150,000 to do work in the Theatre, and the project was a \$250,000 project so the Americana Foundation grant makes up some of those necessary funds. The brick project on Pine Street also received more funds; replacement or restoration of the brick from Third to Sixth Streets, new lighting and sidewalks should occur next summer. The Park Service will assist in determining the lighting and sidewalks that once existed. The DDA is working to acquire buildings and preserve them, and are involved in some sidewalk projects downtown. There are coal bins underneath the sidewalks that are making restoration more difficult. Sue has the original death certificates from the Italian Hall tragedy and is working on an exhibit, also to include the brochures done in 1989 when Senator Luhan (Sec. of Interior) was here to dedicate the Italian Hall as a park. The Women's History Association will be coming up for the next showing of the Opera, and will bring the Big Annie sign. A new sidewalk is being considered for the front of the Italian Hall memorial, and again coal bins could be a problem. Sue also has a coroner's report containing transcribed interviews of people after the Italian Hall tragedy. Larry reported that Erik Nordberg (MTU Archives) had indicated his third generation copy of the report was very poor. It is not clear whether this is the coroner's report or the inquest, but Sue's copy is very legible.

Clyde Raasio reported there was a May 8 meeting to finalize the position description for executive director. Frank placed the advertisements. Sue, Clyde and Paul Lehto met to discuss whether this would be a paid position or contract position. This is still undecided. The destruction of the historic landscape following the Quincy Hill water project has been finalized as far as restoration and reseeded. Frank received a letter from the City of Hancock regarding a parcel of land at Quincy. The owners have offered a figure, but the Park process does not allow for acceptance of figures without an appraisal process which Frank explained to them in a recent letter. A negative response has been received from the City as to getting the property appraised therefore, they have rescinded their offer to sell.

Larry Lankton thanked Kathryn and the Americana Foundation for the St. Anne's grant. A centennial fundraising dinner was successful. Larry encouraged everyone to view the exhibit at St. Anne's that involves Calumet and Hancock schoolchildren photographing new and old objects or creating works of art that contrast the modern day with older times. The Industrial Archeology program at MTU will be working on various projects with the Park, including a

possible master's level study on rock piles and their importance to the landscape. A subcommittee of the Advisory Commission met twice with Portage Health Systems regarding the land opposite the Quincy shaftrock house and a new sign which would be less obtrusive and more compatible with the historic landscape. Two issues occurring are who would pay for the new sign and whether it would be permanent.

Bob Langseth commented that the exhibit at St. Anne's that Larry mentioned is a prime example of what a cooperative park should be. Two hundred students from Hancock and Calumet did the artwork after teachers built their curricula around the project. The Park was involved and others helped with the design. Volunteers helped, Sue Martin involved her class and Lorri Oikarinen pulled the whole thing together.

New Business

Frank reported there were 41 applicants for the executive director position. The application date officially closed on June 30 with a few days to allow for weekend mail. Bob reported that there needs to be review committee formed if the person will be in place by the fall according to the previous timeline. Larry indicated a search committee should be formed that would review the applications, interview the candidates and report their findings to the committee. Kathryn asked if there was not already a committee in place for that, and Larry replied that committee was charged with writing the description. She then asked if the duties for the search committee be placed on the same group. Tom suggested that issues such as wages, benefits and contract issues should be a full commission decision, and the review committee would be only focused on the search. The commission would empower the committee to do the search, but the committee would not normally establish the rules. Sue suggested that a committee review the applications and put forth a select number for the commission. Sue and Clyde agreed to be involved. Sue will contact Paul and try to set up meeting dates.

Diana Charles reported that the appropriations were approved in the House. The Senate is working on their part of the interior bill. She advised that there is a tightening of the pursestrings under the new administration. Pres. Bush is expected to cut out many of the earmarks that have been put forward by senators nationwide in order to afford tax cuts, increase defense spending and other places will be hurt. Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow and Bart Stupak are all supportive of the Park and are committed to helping, but are expecting a tough battle. Diana wanted to clarify what Frank had reported earlier about the \$3 million, the language says it's authorized to provide up to \$3 million of funding for non-Federal properties. Authorized does not mean appropriated; Congressmen and senators need to meet and appropriate those funds.

Amy Wisti echoed Diana's statements. Congressman Stupak asked for money for non-Federal owners but the money did not go through. He will continue to request this.

Public Questions and Comments

Ed Yarbrough (Quincy Mine Hoist Association) reported that the Hoist received a half mile of rail donated from Lake Superior Ishpeming Railroad in Marquette. They will use that to improve visitor access into the mine. The truss removal of the blacksmith shop is moving forward,

although there have been fires started in the removal of the trusses by blowtorch. None of the trusses have been damaged, but there was damage to some artifacts. On October 8, there will be an Italian festival fundraiser to draw in the many Italian families in the area to the Hoist operations. Pine Mountain Music Festival is involved in performing an aria. The Hoist has formed a committee charged with examining how best to spend the Miners' Memorial \$15,000 from Portage Health Systems. The Women's History Association is involved with the Hoist in focusing on interpreting women's work at the mine site, perhaps with some first person narratives and company housing. A bid will be accepted shortly on the reprinting of Boom Copper (13th edition). Visitation during the month of May at the hoist was up 40% over last year but June slowed down considerably. Ed attributes this to the hot weather. The Hoist has extended its hours and is now open 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. About the mass copper discussed previously, Ed reported that the DNR is the owner. The Seaman Museum had no place for it at MTU, so the Hoist was pleased to house it. There will be an evolving relationship between the Museum and the Hoist. Ed thanked Rep. Stupak and Sen. Levin for approving the grant directly to the Museum. There is a considerable amount of money for exhibiting and developing the copper specimen once it arrives. The Hoist will be paid a small amount for administration but the rest of the money will go as a fundraiser to the Museum, through a separate ticket fee just to see the specimen. A delegation from Finland is arriving tomorrow to visit the Mine. The Hoist is working with the Park to remove brush around the ruins between the #2 shafthouse and downhill to Kowsit Lats Road. The Park is also doing the same thing across the street to preserve the dryhouse remains and surrounding 26 acres. Ed took part in Heritage Days by giving a presentation as part of the Fourth Thursday in History series jointly conducted by the Park and the MTU Archives. He also worked with Lorri Oikarinen in developing a walking tour brochure on the historic churches of Calumet. Ed was impressed how Heritage Days is improving its organization and will continue to be a great success in the future.

Diana Charles made an addendum to her report that the following week there would be a steel dumping hearing (Sec. 232) as imported semi-finished steel is jeopardizing the U.S. iron ore mines. Those hearings are at NMU from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 15th. There will be a rally at the superdome from 11:00 a.m. and will culminate in a march to the hearings at the Bottum Center.

Rodney Larsen reported that October 27, 2002 will be the ten-year celebration of the Park establishment and invited discussion about planning for that event. Frank hopes to have the administrative building done and dedicate it at that time. Park staff will establish a committee to start working on planning that event.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.